

plurality of applications and a client administration policy for said user device; and providing said administration policy to said user device.

[0021] Now referring to FIG. 1, there is shown an embodiment of a system wherein the embodiments may be performed advantageously. The system comprises a server unit 10, a network 12, a plurality of transmitting devices 16 and a plurality of user devices 18.

[0022] The server unit 10 is adapted for providing a signal to send to the plurality of user devices 18. The server unit 10 may comprise any type of processing unit that is connected permanently or temporarily with the plurality of user devices 18.

[0023] The network 12 comprises at least one of a Local Area Network (LAN), a Metropolitan Area Network (MAN) and a Wide Area Network (WAN). In an embodiment, the network 12 comprises a Wide Area Network which is the Internet. Network 12 may also comprise an Application Gateway (not shown).

[0024] The plurality of transmitting devices 16 comprises wireless transmitters adapted to transmit data to the plurality of user devices 18. The plurality of user devices 18 comprises devices that are adapted to process at least data. In one embodiment, shown in FIG. 1, the plurality of user devices 18 are wireless user devices. It should be appreciated that various types of devices may be used such as Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), smart phones, etc. In an embodiment, the plurality of user devices 18 comprises Blackberry™ devices which are manufactured by Research In Motion Limited. It will be appreciated by the skilled addressee that the plurality of user devices 18 comprises a plurality of applications, each operating according to policies that may be implemented and monitored by an operator according to the method disclosed hereinafter.

[0025] More precisely, the server unit 10 is adapted to provide to the network 12, inter alia, a signal to send. At least one of the plurality of transmitting devices 16 is adapted to transmit a signal to at least one of the plurality of user devices 18.

[0026] The application gateway 13 of network 12 handles request/response messages initiated by the applications on the devices 18, as well as subscription notifications pushed to the devices 18 from the server unit 10. The Application Gateway can function as a Data Mapping Server for mediating messaging between a client runtime environment (RE) on the devices 18 and a backend server of server unit 10. The Runtime Environment (RE) is an intelligent container that executes application components and provides common services as needed for execution of the applications. The application gateway can provide for asynchronous messaging for the applications and can integrate and communicate with legacy server units such as server unit 10. The devices 18 transmit and receive wireless component applications, as further described herein, as well as transmit/receive messaging associated with operation of the applications. The devices 18 can operate as web clients of the server unit 10 through execution of the applications when provisioned on respective runtime environments (RE) of the devices 18. As described further herein, application gateway 13 may be adapted to provide a policy administration service to client devices 18 providing policies over the air, for example, to control application administrative policies and client administrative policies independently.

[0027] Now referring to FIG. 2, there is shown an embodiment of a user device 18 in which the method for providing an administration policy may be advantageously used.

[0028] The user device 18 comprises a processing unit 20, a user interface 22, a communication unit 24, an application container 26 and a policy storing database 28. The processing unit 20 is adapted to process data. The processing unit 20 may be any suitable processor. The user interface 22 is adapted to provide an interface to a user using the user device 18 for interacting with at least one application. In an embodiment, the user device 22 comprises a keyboard.

[0029] The communication unit 24 is adapted to provide communication capability between the user device 18 and at least one transmitting device 16. In an embodiment, the communication unit 24 is a wireless communication interface.

[0030] The application container 26 provides a RE for executing a plurality of applications in the user device 18. The skilled addressee will appreciate that application container 26 may facilitate the execution of applications providing various functionality but particularly those suitable for communicating with remote data sources such as web services and the like through a stateful proxy such as the application gateway.

[0031] The policy storing database 28 comprise a client administration policy database 30 and an application administration policy database 32.

[0032] It will be appreciated that the client administration policy comprised in the client administration policy database 30 is used to manage administration and privilege of the user device 18 at the user level.

[0033] It will be further appreciated that the application administration policy comprised in the application administration policy database 32 is used to provide a management of an individual application.

[0034] More precisely, the communication unit 24 provides a received policy signal to implement to the processing unit 20. In response to the received policy signal to implement, the processing unit 20 provides a client administration policy signal to the client administration policy database 30. The processing unit 20 further provides an application administration policy signal to the application administration policy database 32.

[0035] An application of the application container 26 may provide an administration policy request signal to the processing unit 20. It will be appreciated that in an embodiment, the policy request signal comprises an indication of a given policy to use to uniquely identify a pertinent policy to use. In response to the policy request signal provided to the processing unit 20, the latter provides a request for a policy for a given application to the application administration policy database 32. It will be appreciated that in an embodiment, the request for a policy for a given application comprises an indication of the given policy to use.

[0036] In response to the request for a policy for a given application, the application administration policy database 32 provides a corresponding administration policy signal for the given application to the processing unit 20. The processing unit 20 then provides a received corresponding application policy signal to the application comprised in the application container 26.

[0037] Now referring to FIG. 3, there is shown how a policy is provided to a user device 18 according to one embodiment.